

Application No. 09/735,537
Reply to Election Requirement

Patent
Attorney Docket No. 13552

I. REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

On page 2 of the Election Requirement, the Examiner has stated that the present application contains claims directed to patentably distinct species of the claimed invention. More specifically, the Examiner has stated that claims 1, 15 and 20-24 are generic to a plurality of disclosed patentably distinct species "A"-I" which are listed in the Election Requirement along with subspecies for each one of the listed species.

Applicant elects species "A" and further subspecies "1" related to the front end, and subspecies "6" related to the connection verification system. Claims 1-7, 10-27, 39, 40, 45, 50-55, 58-61, and 63-71 read on this election.

Application No. 09/735,537
Reply to Election Requirement

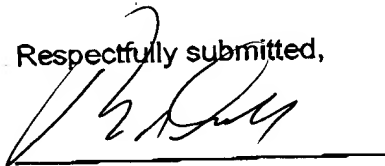
Patent
Attorney Docket No. 13552

II. CONCLUSION

Applicant is of the view that claims 1-7, 10-27, 39, 40, 45, 50-55, 58-61, and 63-71 are in allowable form. Early allowance of the application is earnestly solicited.

If the claims of the application are not considered to be in full condition for allowance, for any reason, Applicant respectfully requests the constructive assistance and suggestions of the Examiner in drafting one or more acceptable claims pursuant to MPEP 707.07(j) or in making constructive suggestions pursuant to MPEP 706.03 so that the application can be placed in allowable condition as soon as possible and without the need for further proceedings.

Respectfully submitted,



Ralph A. Dowell
Reg. No. 26,868
Attorney for Applicant

Date: 12/24/03

DOWELL & DOWELL
1215 Jefferson Davis Highway
Suite 309
Arlington, VA 22202-3124
Tel: (703) 415-2555
Fax: (703) 415-2559